



THE VILLAGE CRIER

Newsletter of
The Annapolis Villagers

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NEXT MEETING:
MAY 11, 2004

MAY 2004 VOLUME 12, NUMBER 3



TIME: 7pm
HOSTED:
AT THE AMERICAN LEGION, POST
175, Severna Park in Manhattan Beach

Mountain Landscaping

Mickey Skipper will present a demonstration on an easy and inexpensive technique to make landscaping for your village scenes.

During the House Tours we all look forward to Betty Skippers D56 displays and her holiday decorations. While touring the house, we were delighted to discover a fantastic train village in the basement. This discovery was a bonus.

From the age of 10 Mickey Skipper has been enjoying his model train hobby. When we were there in January the tracks were being extended and the layout was being fined tuned. The village is a work in progress.

At the meeting on May 11th, Mickey will show us how truly easy it is to make hills and mountains out of crumpled newspaper, tape, water and plaster. After the demonstration he will answer any and all questions.

DIRECTIONS: From Washington DC: Take Route 50 East, Exit onto Route 2 North. Follow Rt. 2 N (Ritchie Highway) to Jones Station Road (the next light after College Parkway and there is an Amoco and Crown gas Station), turn right onto Jones Station Rd and make an immediate left onto Manhattan Beach Road behind the Crown Station. Follow Manhattan Beach Road (2/10 of a mile) and make a left into the parking lot of The American Legion. The Entrance to the Banquet Room is on the left hand side towards the rear of the building. From Baltimore: Take the 695 Baltimore Beltway to Rt. 2 South, Left on Jones Station Road, and follow from Jones Station Rd as above.

The Village Crier is published bi-monthly and is the official newsletter of The Annapolis Villagers, a collector's club of Department 56®, Inc. lighted houses and other products. We are not affiliated with Department 56®, Inc. Opinions expressed are solely those of the authors. Any reproduction, in whole or in part, without expressed permission of The Annapolis Villagers is prohibited. Membership is \$15.00 per person or \$20.00 for two people in the same household sharing membership. Feel free to contact us at: P.O. Box 2083, Annapolis, MD 21404

The President Sez:

Spring has arrived and I'm sure we are all ready for some warm weather after what seemed to be a long cold winter. I hope all of you, who put up Easter displays or Snowbunny displays, had a wonderful time creating them.

Although there were only five couples who attended, the Angeluccies, Devines, Marketts, Schubrings and Eustices, we had a great time at the St. Patrick's Day dinner and dance. The food was good, there was plenty of room to dance and The Irish Step Dancers provided delightful entertainment. Thank you, Barbara, for arranging this wonderful evening for us.

Due to limited interest in the Night at the Races which was scheduled for April 17, this event was cancelled.

June is fast approaching and that means just one thing. It is time for our annual Brunch at the Fleet Reserve. Already, I can taste the Eggs Benedict. The brunch is scheduled for June 27 and Barbara is our Chairperson.

As we mentioned in the last newsletter our annual picnic will be held in September this year. Several members had suggested switching the times of the picnic and the Anniversary dinner due to the extreme heat we've experienced for previous picnics. The Stevenson's have graciously agreed to be our hosts for the picnic. Our dinner this year promises to be a very special evening as we attend the Medieval Times in Arundel Mills on August 1. Marsha Voigt is chairing this event.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our May meeting when Mickey Skipper will be our guest speaker.

Looking forward to a great year,
Kate

March Meeting Highlights

At the March meeting, Bernie Dvorak presented Mr. Irwin Abrams a check for \$2,000 for the Hospice of the Chesapeake from the Annapolis Villagers efforts at the 2003 MAVG. Mr. Abrams spoke briefly expressing his appreciation for this and all the contributions made by the Annapolis Villagers.

After a brief business meeting, Pat Ehrenreich presented an entertaining and enlightening PowerPoint presentation titled, "You Gotta Shop Around". She shared with us many ideas and places to shop for those all important non-Department 56 accessories for our villages. She also demonstrated how to utilize some unusual accessories in our villages.

Winners of our door prizes remained in the family. Jim Clarke won a \$25 gift certificate donated by Banners Hallmark. He drew the next winner who was his wife, Rosetta, who won a \$25 gift certificate donated by Melissas Hallmark. Rosetta picked the next winner who was her sister, Jennifer Collinson, who won a Department 56 accessory. The 50/50 raffle was won by Trudi Baer.

Mid Summer's Night Adventure

At the dawn of the Middle ages (Aug 1), we gather in the Great Hall of the King (Medieval Times-Arundel Mills). You, our noble guests, are at the center of a great celebration, a feast, and a tournament born of legend. (for \$40.65 per person). At about 4:45 the Lord Chancellor will call us to table and shortly thereafter the tournaments and the feasting shall begin!! Cheer the arrival of your Knights (at 5pm): swords clash, axes ring, as one Knight seeks the title of Champion in a spectacle not witnessed for centuries. Witness the power and glory of the mighty Andalusian stallions as they perform their ancient dance. The splendor, the pagentry, and the romance of a time long remembered come to life - just for us!! Arrive early to enjoy the thrill of a Dungeon or a Knighting or the attentions of a Wench or - just shopping and imbibing. So - in the meantime, please sign up at our next meeting and, hopefully, pay - adults \$40.65 and children \$32.95. Questions - please call Lady Marsha, 301-345-7631.

JOIN US FOR BRUNCH

Join the Villagers for Brunch at the Fleet Reserve Club in Annapolis on June 27 at 10:00 A.M. Space is limited so if you would like to attend, call Barbara Schubring at 301 262-5802 or e-mail tbschub@access4less.net as soon as possible. The cost will be \$12 per person. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and we will have a beautiful day for visiting and shopping! Mark your calendars and RSVP at the May Member's Meeting

1st Annual Christmas in September Party at the Stevensons' Saturday September 18th

Come join us for our 1st Annual Christmas in September party from 2pm until ????

Yes, that's right it is now Christmas in September. Several of us have decided that July is just too hot and many of you are on vacation so we are having it in September.

We will have games, prizes, and lawn sports to entertain you. Rita and Carl Carter will be here doing demos also.

All you need to do is give us a call and let us know what dish for 8 people you will be bringing and how many will be coming in your party. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs.

Please call Dean Stevenson 410-923-2755 to give us your info before August 20th.

CALL FOR BYLAW CHANGES

At the May membership meeting, there will be a call for proposed bylaw changes. If you wish to propose changes to the bylaws of the Annapolis Villagers, please submit them to Bob Eustice at or before the May meeting. The proposed changes will be considered at the June Board meeting. Recommendations from the Board will be voted upon at the July membership meeting. For more information, contact Bob at 301-552-1858 or e-mail him at kateeustice@hotmail.com

Villagers' Charity
Makes Headlines!

New Product Introductions
Visit www.department56.com

D56 is pleased to share with you the 2004 Introductions. The new introductions include the highly anticipated Halloween gift sets plus the 20th anniversary Dickens' Village Series® Limited to Year 2004 Production pieces.

New licensed products include, "Pillsbury Dough Boy Bake Shop", The 40th Anniversary Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer Limited to Year 2004 production pieces, "Old Cominskey Park" and more. Our Snowbabies™ new introductions include new additions to The Guest Collection™ with Minnie Mouse and beautiful collector edition pieces.

HOSPICE MARKS 25 YEARS

Reprinted courtesy of the Annapolis Capital, By: Theresa Winslow

It started in Fran Grauch's dining room with a filing cabinet, a phone, volunteers and a mission: to provide care and comfort to the dying. Twenty-five years later, the mission hasn't changed, but Hospice of the Chesapeake has grown exponentially.

"It's amazing," said Erwin Abrams, hospice president and CEO. "We're humbled and we're very proud. Hospice is the community at its very best. We've not just survived, we have grown to a position of recognition as the provider of first choice when it comes to life-limiting illnesses."

As hospice celebrates reaching the quarter-century mark, Mr. Abrams and others reflected on the organization's mission and plans for the future.

To get an idea just how much things have changed, consider the number of patients served by hospice each year. It started with just four in 1979, grew to 152 a decade later and reached 1,315 last year.

"We look forward to maintaining the level of commitment to the community and fulfilling the community's need for services for many, many years to come," Mr. Abrams said.

Besides providing care so people can remain at home during a terminal illness if they choose to, the organization operates a hospice house in Linthicum, runs a Spiritual & Bereavement Care Center with special programs just for children and teens, and provides information on terminal illness and grieving to the community. It employs more than 100 full- and part-time personnel, and works with more than 340 volunteers. In the near future, the organization hopes to have a second hospice house completed by the end of this year, Mr. Abrams said. It'll be located in Harwood. There are also plans for a third house, in Prince George's County, where hospice also has offices. Its other offices are in Millersville.

"I think that the death and dying process is a very meaningful part of life," said Elizabeth Rogers, who heads up hospice's social work program. "In our culture we want to hide it, or hide from the experience. It's neat to be a midwife at the end of life."

Ms. Rogers has held her current job for three years, but interned at hospice in the '90s. One of the greatest gifts of hospice, she said, is raising the level of awareness of end-of-life experiences.

For her part, Ms. Grauch is thrilled at hospice's growth over 25 years and extremely modest about her own contributions to the organization. "When I stop to think about (how it's grown), I'm sort of amazed," the Severna Park resident said. "A group of people saw a need and those people talked with others who recognized the need, and we just followed through. We just kept plugging away."

Vigil for the Dying Uses Soothing Music to Calm and Comfort

Reprinted courtesy of the Annapolis Capital, Written by: Theresa Winslow

"Hi, Virginia. My name's Annie. Your family's here. Frieda's here, Wilma's here and Tony's here. I'm going to play some music for you. I hope you like it."

Under soft light in a room filled with love and family pictures, Annie Burgard Kumar starts singing. She quietly hums a bit of a Gregorian chant, then crouches over, strokes Virginia Mullins' hair and holds her hand. Ms. Kumar then adjusts her chair and begins playing the harp. Over the next hour, it seems at times like the 91-year-old Ms. Mullins, who is terminally ill and has Alzheimer's disease, hears the songs.

When Ms. Kumar plays "Amazing Grace," Ms. Mullins seems to say, "Amazing." This is the same woman who no longer recognizes her own children and talks mostly unintelligibly, if at all. She appears calmer when the songs end, and the next day the staff at her Hospice House residence reports she is more at ease and "peaceful." Her family is definitely pleased.

"She usually doesn't make those sounds," said her daughter, Wilma Graham, a former county resident who now lives in Tennessee. "It seemed like she tried to talk to her." Added another daughter, Frieda Turc of Pasadena, "It seemed like she understood and relaxed with it. It was beautiful. I'm glad we did it."

"I always associated harps with angels," she said earlier, "so it has to be soothing." Ms. Kumar is a certified music-thanatologist and conducts these gatherings, called vigils, four to eight times a week to give spiritual and physical comfort to the dying. The Owings Mills resident often travels to Hospice of the Chesapeake's Hospice House in Linthicum to play, but she also goes to other locations in the Baltimore area. "It has a very calming, soothing effect on the patients if they're in any pain or restless," said Kathy Braspennickx, a nurse and team leader at Hospice House. "It's sort of like being one with the music. It sort of touches their soul." Even if patients are unconscious, or have Alzheimer's disease like Ms. Mullins, Ms. Kumar said the music reaches them on some level. Her visits are geared to the specific needs of each patient. She fills out a detailed questionnaire about the patient beforehand, using information gathered from caregivers and family members. She records information about their breathing, pulse rate, wakefulness and agitation _ then, after she's finished, she writes down her observations on the same form. She typically doesn't take requests, but she does shape the vigil around a family's desires. "In my work, you try to see what works," she said.

For example, Ms. Mullins' daughters told Ms. Kumar some songs she might like, such as "Jesus Loves Me," and when she played them they seemed to illicit the most response from Ms. Mullins.

"Annie herself is a reflection of the beauty that she brings to patients and families," said hospice President and CEO Erwin Abrams, who attended the final part of Ms. Mullins' vigil. Setting the tone When she plays, Ms. Kumar bonds with her harp and the patient she's trying to help. She's a small woman with a big voice who sees the vigils as a calling. Ms. Kumar, who is married and has a stepdaughter, has been playing harp since 1995. She learned specifically as part of her training to be a music-thanatologist.

In college, she studied music therapy, which is a sister field. Her interest in music-thanatology grew out of her work with the elderly and AIDS patients. "I've been pulled to work with end-of-life populations," she said. "I'm not sure why. It's a fascinating time, the end of one's life. "It's made me look at death and my own fears about death. I see how death is so individual. Whether we embrace death or push it away _ it's up to us. It's our own walk. There are no answers for how you die or what happens when you die, but we have the ability to help with that passage."

Ms. Kumar, who describes herself as "spiritual," has conducted more than 500 vigils since she began in 1997. Each one is different, but none is ever depressing, she said. Rather, she often leaves feeling "very alert, very awake" and privileged to share some time with a patient and his family.

The vigils are free to patients and their families. Ms. Kumar is paid by the hospice or by the hospital she's called to. The patient is never charged, she said, because the idea is that everyone dies and not everyone can afford a vigil.

Much of the vigil consists of Gregorian chants, which Ms. Kumar said are useful because she can tailor them to match a patient's breathing. She also plays lullabies.

"(Music-thanatology) uses the qualities of music as a medicine," she said. "I think it helps so much to diminish fear, to ease pain, both spiritual and physical, (and) it brings families together."

It certainly was a bonding experience for Jean Wehner of Arnold and her family. Her mother-in-law, Florence Wehner, 84, passed away in October as Ms. Kumar played at her bedside. Ms. Wehner said the experience was not sad, but was uplifting for herself and her family.

"There were tears, but they were tears of joy," Ms. Wehner said. "It felt as if it was a peaceful letting go. It was as if a gift was brought to Florence so she could peacefully let go. Annie has a gift more than words can say."

Ms. Wehner said that if it were possible, she'd like a music-thanatologist to play for her at her own death. The same goes for her husband, Mike, she said. "It's really a beautiful experience," said Elizabeth Rogers, who heads up hospice's social work program. "And it is a ritual for families to experience around the dying experience."

Ms. Turc and Ms. Graham said it's been hard to see their mother slip away. She was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in the 1990s, but probably had it years before that, Ms. Turc said. "Life kind of played a dirty trick on her," she said.

Ms. Mullins, who her daughters describe as a "country girl" who loved to sing and was known for her homemade cakes and pies, has been at Hospice House for a few weeks. She was previously in a nursing home. Ms. Mullins has a large family, with five children, 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. There are so many that it took her two daughters several minutes to count everyone.

Ms. Turc said she figured the vigil would be a good idea because it might help her mother relax. She was also a bit curious about the practice herself and wanted to experience it.

During the vigil, Ms. Turc held her mother's hand or patted her forehead. Ms. Graham also touched her mother, and wiped her own eyes several times during the vigil.

At one point, Ms. Turc sang along with Ms. Kumar and their voices filled the room. "It's wonderful," said Ms. Turc, who attended the vigil with her husband, Tony.

At the end of the vigil, Ms. Kumar slowly bent closer to Ms. Mullins, kissed her on her forehead, and said her farewells. Ms. Turc and Ms. Graham remained close to their mother's bedside and seemed to meditate on the moment.

Ms. Mullins was quiet. "Virginia, beautiful. Beautiful you are. You have a beautiful family. You rest You rest. Bye-bye, Virginia. You take care."

For more information on Hospice of the Chesapeake or Ms. Kumar's services, call 410-987-2003. Hospice of the Chesapeake's Web site is www.hospicechesapeake.org.

This is the Villagers chosen Charity at work. Photos that accompany this article are reprinted in the electronic version of this newsletter. See photos on page 8.



MAGIC MOMENTS



It's not too early to buy a 2005 calendar and mark April 8-10 as the 7th Annual Mid Atlantic Village Gathering (MAVG)! The dates are set and so is the location—the Hyatt Reston Hotel in Reston, Virginia. And guys—this time the event will not conflict with March Madness basketball!



The gathering will include past favorite events like the Swap and Sell, Show and Sell, Make and Take displays, other displays, and seminars galore. Whether you are a serious collector or merely one who dabbles with Department 56, this gathering will have something for you!



If you are still looking for some rare retired pieces, you are certain to find them in the Market Place in the hotel's Ballroom. And the immediate area has numerous fine restaurants.



At our next membership meeting in May, we may learn when tickets will go on sale and when hotel reservations may be made. If you can't wait until then, go the gathering's website at www.mavg.org, which is frequently updated. Or email Bernie Dvorak, the publicity chairman for the event, at pendvorak@comcast.net



MAVG PAYOUT TO ANNAPO- LIS VILLAGERS

During a recent Mid-Atlantic Village Gathering (MAVG) General Membership Meeting, it was announced that the Annapolis Villagers would receive \$4,063 from the proceeds of the 2003 MAVG held in Reston, VA. The money will be used for the charitable donations that the club will make in 2004 and 2005.

It is only through the club's participation as MAVG committee members and as volunteers during the gatherings that makes these funds available for charity on behalf of the club. We are proud of our participation and fundraising which greatly benefit local charities. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to continue to support the 2005 MAVG.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL GATHERING 2004

Have you ever thought of going to other gatherings?

Several Annapolis Villagers are traveling to the Southern Regional Gathering (SRG) which will be held in Atlanta on 18-20 June at the Renaissance Atlanta Hotel. The SRG rate is \$62.00 per night.

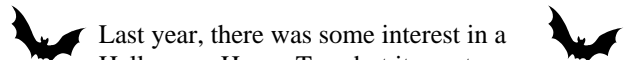
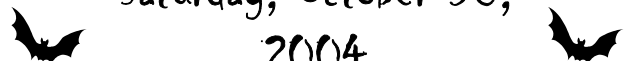
The SRG will feature seminars, bingo, a marketplace, make & takes, display contests, room hopping, charity raffles, Saturday Nite Live, and Sunday morning breakfast.

If you are interested in joining other Annapolis Villagers at the SRG, call (770) 462-4257 for Gathering Information or visit their web site at www.srg56.com.

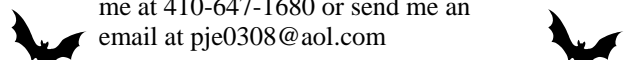
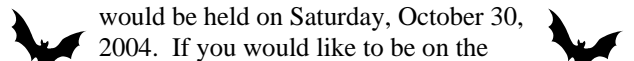
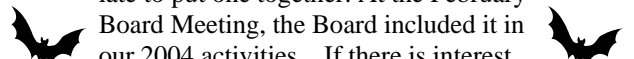
D56 will feature an Anniversary scarf available exclusively at the regional gatherings...



Halloween Open House
Saturday, October 30,
2004



Last year, there was some interest in a Halloween House Tour but it was too late to put one together. At the February Board Meeting, the Board included it in our 2004 activities. If there is interest this year, the Halloween House Tour would be held on Saturday, October 30, 2004. If you would like to be on the Halloween House Tour, please contact me at 410-647-1680 or send me an email at pje0308@aol.com



CALENDAR

JANUARY 2004

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FEBRUARY 2004

Board Meeting—
February 10th

MARCH 2004

Members Meeting—
March 9th—You gotta
shop around by Pat
Ehrenreich

March 13th—St. Pat-
rick's Dinner Dance

APRIL 2004

April 13th—Board
Meeting

April 17th—Night at
the Rosecroft Races

*April 23-25th—Chicago
Gathering,*

MAY 2004

May 2nd -Golden Goose
20th Anniversary Dick-
ens Celebration, 11am -
5pm Special Edition
pieces, pin set, Carter
Demonstrations, etc

May 11th—Members
Meeting—Mickey Skip-
per Demonstration

JUNE 2004

June 8th—Board Meet-
ing

*June 18-20th—Southern
Regional Gathering*

June 27th—Annapolis
Brunch

JULY 2004

July 13th—Member's
Meeting—Bob Eustice
Landscape Demonstra-
tion

AUGUST 2004

August 1st—Medieval
Times Event

August 10th—Board
Meeting

April 8, 9 & 10, 2005,
The Mid-Atlantic Village
Gathering, Inc.
Presents "Magic Moments"
Hyatt Regency Reston, VA.
Call (800) 233-1234 for
Hotel Reservations, or visit
www.mavg.org for up to-
date information.

(Italics indicate the event is not local)

Photos that go with the Hospice of the Chesapeake article



In the photo's above, music-thanatologist Anne Bugard Kumar uses the harp music and physical touch to comfort Alzheimer's patient Virginia Mullins at the hospice of the Chesapeake's Hospice House in Lithicum.

In the photo to the left, Frieda Turc of Pasadena holds her mother's hand as Ms Kumar plays.



Below left, Ms Turc and her sister, Wilma Graham watch as Ms Kumar comforts their mother during vigil.

Photo credits, photographer J. Henson, The Capital.



The Annapolis Villagers presenting the donation from the Mid-Atlantic Village Gathering to Hospice of the Chesapeake President and CEO Erwin Abrams.

The Village Crier E-Classified section

DAWN DUPLICATED!

Believe it or not I bought multiples of the following items without even realizing it! Addiction is serious business! So, here's my duplicates, and they can be yours for the asking, any offer considered! Call me at 301-672-6000, or email me – dczimmerman@comcast.net;

- ➤ SEASONS BAY – PORCH CAFÉ
- ➤ ADLEBURGH MUSIC BOX GIFT SET
- ➤ DV – QUEEN PARLIMENTARY COACH
- ➤ NORTH POLE WOODS TREE HOUSE
- ➤ DV – BUMPSTEAD NYE CLOAKS & CANES
- ➤ DV – GIGGLESWICK MUTTON AND HAM

We hope to see more on this page in our next issue.

Pete

The following page was sent to the NCC for inclusion in the scrapbook that is being created for Judith Price on her retirement from Department 56.



The Annapolis Villagers, Annapolis, Maryland

A group of the Villagers travel to Dept 56 and the Silver Celebration



Minnie, Mickey & Judith at the Golden Gate Gathering



Pete, Trudi, Norma, Bernie & Penny at the Golden Gate Gathering



Pete, Trudi, Jan, Norma, Judith, Sonja, Lowell & Judith's Boss at MAVG 2003 Sunday Breakfast



Bernie, Susan Engel, Penny, Bill & Sherian Roberts and Bob Eustice at Tom Russ's Fall Festival 2001



Pat & John Ehrenreich doing a demonstration at Homestead Gardens November 2003

